

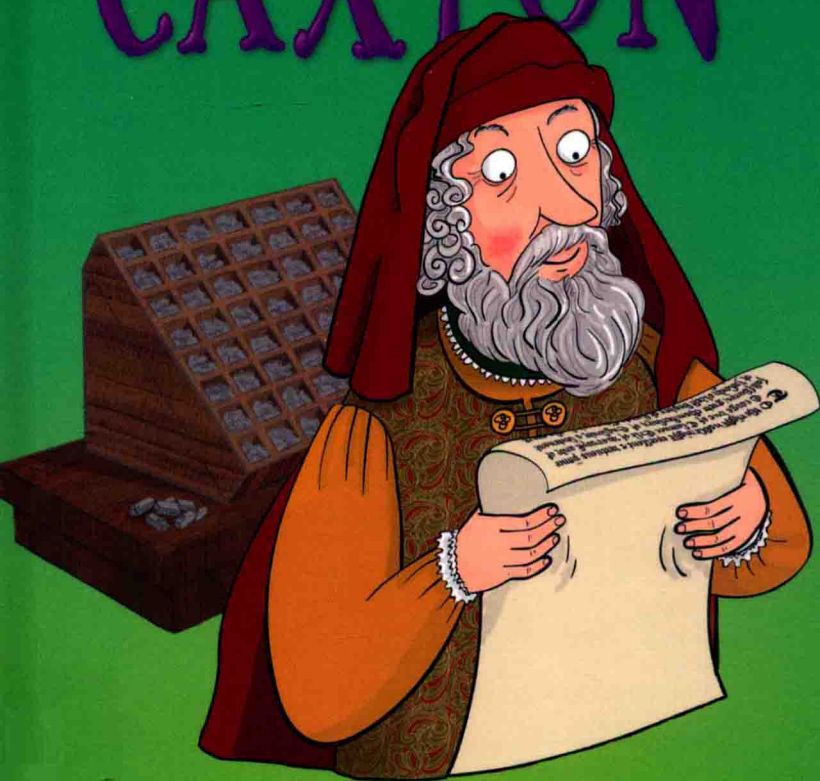
**HISTORY**



**HEROES!**

**INNOVATORS**

# William CAXTON



**DAMIAN HARVEY**

**Illustrated by JUDY BROWN**

# William CAXTON



Damian Harvey  
Illustrated by Judy Brown

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FRANKLIN WATTS  
LONDON • SYDNEY

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# CHAPTER 1

## An Apprentice

When William Caxton was born in England in 1422, the world was very different to the one that you and I know today.

There was no television, there were no video games and no computers. There weren't even many books.



As soon as William was old enough, his parents sent him to school.

This meant that he was able to learn to read and write, something that a lot of people couldn't do. He was very lucky.



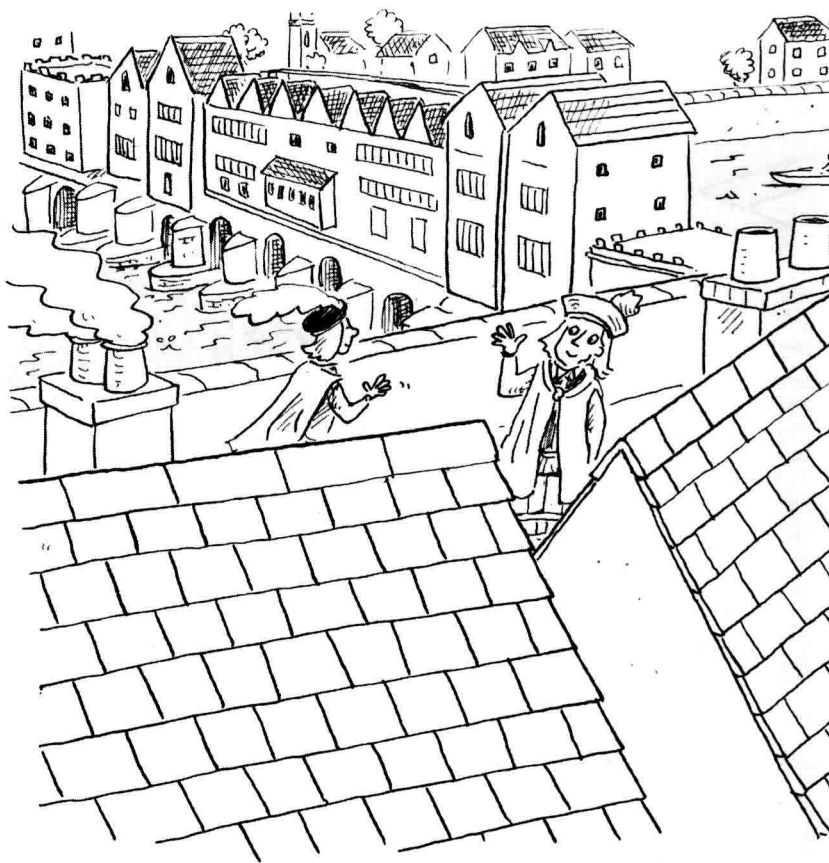


William had to learn French and Latin because there weren't many books written in English.



When he was 15 years old, William left his family home in Kent and travelled to London.

Life was very different in London. It was busy and exciting.





He became an apprentice to a wealthy merchant named Robert Large. He lived in Robert Large's house and ate his meals there too.

Robert Large was a mercer, a merchant that specialised in buying and selling fine silk, linen and velvet cloth. William learnt all about the cloth business and trading with other countries. William was lucky to have such a good job.



In 1430, Robert Large became Sheriff of London. Then, in 1439, he became Lord Mayor. He was a very important man in London.

When Robert Large died he left William some money in his will. It was just enough for William to set up his own business.



## CHAPTER 2

# Off to Belgium

William packed his things and boarded a ship for Belgium. There, he made his way to the city of Bruges, the centre of the wool trade in Europe, and set up his own cloth merchant business.



He was a successful businessman and soon became Governor of the 'English Nation of Merchant Adventurers' at Bruges. He helped protect the business of other English merchants abroad in Europe. He also worked as an ambassador for King Edward IV of England.



While working as an ambassador, William gained the trust of the Duke of Burgundy, known as Charles the Bold. Charles married Margaret, the Duchess of York, King Edward IV's sister, in 1468.





Margaret liked William Caxton  
and she gave him a job as her  
personal secretary.

